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The Sun

Springport, Belle Glade, Canal Point, Pahokee, and South Bay
Palm Beach County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1913

Pahokee ousts Davis, elects new mayor

By Brenda Bunting
Editor

Pahokee has a new mayor one new city commissioner and two returning commissioners.

Over a third of Pahokee's voting population cast their votes at Tuesday's city commission race to elect former city commissioner Roy Singletary to the position of mayor. Singletary, 65, beat out current mayor Alvis Davis by 37 votes, garnering 52.44 percent of the votes.

Voters also gave the nod to political newcomer Hugh Branch to serve a two year term. Branch, 75, received 54.82 percent of the vote. He won the race over challengers Eugene Babb, 42, and Larry Wright, 52.

In Group 2, current city

commissioner Keith Babb won in a tight race against Kay Zaccagnino, beating her out of the seat by only 10 votes.

In Group 3, current commissioner Pete Moore beat out Glen Carrick.

The new mayor and the three newly-elected city commissioners will be sworn in at the May 9 City Commission meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Election results

	Votes
Roy Singletary	397
Alvis Davis	360
Hugh Branch	398
Eugene Babb	201
Larry Wright	127
Keith Babb	364
Kay Zaccagnino	354
Pete Moore	485
Glen Carrick	216

Off-duty detective witnesses robbery, gives chase

By Brenda Bunting
Editor

Belle Glade Detective Gregory Burrus may have just wanted a couple of tacos last Saturday afternoon, but what he got instead was a lot of exercise chasing a robbery suspect on his day off.

Det. Burrus was in the driveway of Taco Bell when he saw a man running from the store wearing a mask and carrying a chrome handgun. He looked inside the eatery and saw an employee pushing the panic alarm button.

Det. Burrus jumped out of his car and began chasing the man, who climbed the wall on the east side of Taco Bell and ran onto the 800 block of Southeast First Street.

Det. Burrus pursued the man, later identified as David M. Robinson. Robinson picked up a bicycle on the block and peddled away with Det. Burrus still giving chase on foot. Det. Burrus said he lost sight of the man at the intersection of Southeast Second Street at Southeast Avenue I, but other Belle Glade Police officers and members of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office patrol personnel set a perimeter in

the area and gave chase with K-9 dog "Boby". Boby and Officer John Owens saw Robinson in the back yard of a home and Officer Owens commanded Robinson to drop the handgun, but he said Robinson refused. Officer Owens then released the dog who latched onto Robinson's left arm, while Robinson still held the gun in his right hand. Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputy Canine Handler Lee Sands said he heard Officer Owens yelling for Robinson to drop the gun, and Sands released his police dog, "Klodo" who grabbed Robinson's lower body with his jaws. Once the two police dogs pulled Robinson to the ground, the man dropped the gun and police were able to handcuff him.

It was later learned that Robinson was a former Taco Bell employee. The money bag from the restaurant was found in his pocket. Robinson was taken to Glades General Hospital and treated for dog bites. He was then taken to jail without bond and charged with armed robbery with a firearm, resisting an officer without violence, resisting an officer with violence and theft.

1 Elect ROY SINGLETARY FOR MAYOR



Three for one...Hugh Branch holds up a sign in support of Roy Singletary as Henry Crawford gives the victory sign. Mr. Branch won a seat on the Pahokee City Commission. Mr. Crawford is currently a Pahokee City Commissioner.

Grants sought to restore the Everglades Inn, other projects

By Tracy Whirls

The Pahokee Commission approved two grant applications to the Developing Regions Grant program to assist local entrepreneurs in revamping an historic landmark and establishing a manufacturing company to employ local residents.

City Manager Ken Schenck told the commissioners the city has used the Developing Region grant in the past for facade improvements, rehabbing 15 different businesses, and the city still has \$20,000 from last year's grant that could be used for that purpose.

Mr. Schenck proposed the city apply for a \$21,666 core grant to assist Santiago Boynton and Susan Steckney with the initial rehabilitation of the Everglades Inn, which they recently purchased, and plan to restore as a bed and breakfast

or hotel facility.

Ms. Steckney said during the 2-3 years it will take to completely restore the inn, they will begin by renting rooms or suites to tourists and single professionals interested in visiting the area.

Ms. Steckney said she and her partner, who have rehabbed other historic buildings in Chicago, West Palm Beach and Riviera Beach, will review the city's plans for restoring down town before completing their design plans.

Mr. Schenck also recommended that the commission approve a competitive grant application for Becky Barwick and Al Milligan, who hope to start a company to manufacture and sell school uniforms.

Ms. Barwick told the commissioners that she will be working with Ameri-Tech, a

vocational school in South Bay, to provide training for seamstresses who will work as independent contractors

manufacturing the garments from their homes. Ms. Barwick said the company, Uni-Glades Enterprises, will market the clothing on the Internet and directly to schools. She said she hopes to create a warehouse and shipping facility which will eventually employ as many as 100 local residents.

Ms. Barwick said if the project is successful, she may expand into other venues, such as manufacturing hospital scrubs, or serving as a warehousing/marketing outlet for imports.

In other business the commissioners approved the first reading of an ordinance annexing parcels of land owned by Emilio Perez and Sara Ruiz.

See Projects/Page 3

Voters will be asked to decide if commissioners can serve 4-year terms

By Brenda Bunting
Editor

A new item on the ballot this fall will ask Belle Glade voters

if city commissioners should serve four year terms instead of the current two year terms.

Belle Glade City Commissioners voted Monday night to put the issue before the voters on the September 12 ballot. Commissioner Steve Weeks and Vice Mayor D. Bill Mathis voted against the resolution, but were outvoted by commissioners Steve Wilson, Mary Ross Wilkerson and Mayor Harma Miller.

Commissioner Weeks said in a telephone interview that he does not support the resolution because two years is plenty of time for a commissioner to learn the job and be effective. But, he said, "Four years is a long time for a citizen if they are not satisfied with a city commissioner."

Mayor Miller said she is leading the charge on this issue and strongly supports the change from two to four year terms.

"I see this as so basic," she said. "By the time a commissioner learns the job and sets

long term goals, they are out of office or have to run again," she said. "Four years gives them time to set long term plans and goals and implement those plans."

Commissioner Steve Wilson said, "We don't always have to do things the way we did them in the past. It takes time to develop the strength of the commission. We need time to get things accomplished and two years is not enough time for long term goals."

Commissioner D. Bill Mathis and Mayor Ross Wilkerson could not be reached for comment.

In other business, the commission:

- Agreed to revise the RFP for the grants consultant position and re-advertise the position. The commission received two applications, but both withdrew before being interviewed.
- Approved a settlement for former employee Portia M. Johnson who sued the city for discrimination. She was

See Belle Glade/Pg 9

Local Improvement Plan

The public presentation of the School Improvement Plan for Years 4 schools will be held at the Glades County Courthouse on May 17 at 7 p.m.

The plan will be presented at Belle Glade Elementary on May 17 at 7 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 18 at 7 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 19 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 20 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 21 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 22 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 23 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 24 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 25 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 26 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 27 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 28 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 29 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 30 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

The plan will be presented at Glades County Courthouse on May 31 at 6 p.m. in the media center.

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Lake Level

May 2
4.5 ft. above
normal level

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Several Belle Glade residents won prizes in a drawing held by the City of Belle Glade on Monday night during the regular city commission meeting. The winners all participated in filling out census forms at the Black Gold Jubilee on April 15. The city sponsored the drawing to encourage local residents to fill out the census forms because the city's portion of federal monies is based on the number of residents living in the city. Any citizen who did not receive the census form in the mail last month can go to the Belle Glade Municipal Library to fillout a form. Shown, from left are Mayor Harma Miller and Assistant to the City Manager Barbara Bell Spence.



Children at Glades Kids in Belle Glade have been enjoying the fun and educational adventures with Kenny Mikey and Riley Roam with Page Turner Adventures this past week. Kenny, (shown with the hat on) was teaching the students the art of juggling. A former Ringling Brothers Clown, Kenny has been seen juggling fire on Nickelodeon and bean bag chairs on the Bozo TV Show and Good Morning America. Riley Roam, as the "World Famous Storyologist" Page Turner, is South Florida's FOX Kids Club host as well as a published children's author, actress and storologist. Riley and Kenny entertained over 100 children at Glades Kids, located at St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church. The event was provided through Children's Services Council grant monies.



Rashadd Bell, a seventh grader at Lake Shore Middle School in Belle Glade was the winner of a \$25 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble Book Store. Rashadd won a drawing at the Belle Glade Branch Library to win the certificate during National Library Week, April 9-15. Shown presenting the certificate to Rashadd is Elaine Minor, Librarian I.

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County Inc. opens office

The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. will be opening a branch office in Belle Glade in the Western Auto Plaza, 141 South Main Street, Suite 101. According to Executive Director Robert Bertisch, the Legal Aid Society provides high quality civil legal advice, representation and education to disadvantaged children, families and individuals residing in Palm Beach County so as to protect their personal safety,

improve their lifestyle and living conditions and promote self-sufficiency.

The Legal Aid Society operates 13 projects that provide civil legal services to the low-income community and individuals, and serves as the protector of the legal rights of the poor and disenfranchised in our county.

Some of the projects through which Legal Aid accomplishes this goal include: The Family

Law Project, which provides services in dissolution of marriage matters to victims of domestic violence where child custody is at issue, as well as adoption, visitation and support matters.

Project Permanent Placement (PPP) provides a stable family environment, through adoption, guardianship and custody, for children who have lost, or who are in danger of losing, their parent(s) due to

terminal illness or a catastrophic event.

The Juvenile Advocacy Project ensures access to legally mandated educational, developmental, and psychological services for emotionally, behaviorally and physically challenged children in order to prevent delinquency and address problematic behavior; The Domestic Violence Project helps provide safety and self-sufficiency for victims of domestic

violence and their families; As part of the Service Alliance for Homeless Families, Legal Aid assists homeless families in achieving financial self-sufficiency and accessing to permanent housing.

The HIV/AIDS Legal Project provides a comprehensive range of civil legal services for individuals infected with the HIV virus in order to protect and enhance their quality of life; The Immigrant Advocacy

Project provides services to immigrants in naturalization, public benefits and housing matters.

The Public Guardianship Project provides guardianship services for indigent incapacitated elderly individuals without family or friends to care for them; The Elder Law Project provides free legal assistance to individuals 60 years of age and older, with an emphasis on abuse and exploitation.

Day care available in Pahokee for Alzheimer's patients

If you have a loved one who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, you know first-hand the difficulties that arise when looking for compassionate support in the community. If you need to go to work, shop, or just some relaxation, Alzheimer's Community Care Association (ACCA), a not-for-profit organization, offers you a solution.

ACCA provides an affordable adult day care setting, complete with a tailored therapeutic activities program. Your loved one will receive social stimulation, nutritious meals and snacks, and routine health maintenance by a licensed nurse. With the help of ACCA, you'll be comforted in the knowledge that your loved one is kept active in the presence of a professional, caring staff.

For more information, please call Alzheimer's Community Care Specialized Day Care in Pahokee at 924-7283 and ask for Lynette Wiseman, program manager.

Census Count 2000

Anyone who did not receive the Census 2000 form or who needs help completing the form can go to any Palm Beach County Library for assistance.

All Glades libraries will have a representative to help with questions regarding Census 2000.

The schedule for the Belle Glade Municipal Library is as follows: Monday-Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 to 2:30 and again from 6 to 8 p.m. On Thursday and Friday, helpers are available from 10 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. On Saturdays, a volunteer will help from 10 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call the Belle Glade Municipal Library at 996-3453.

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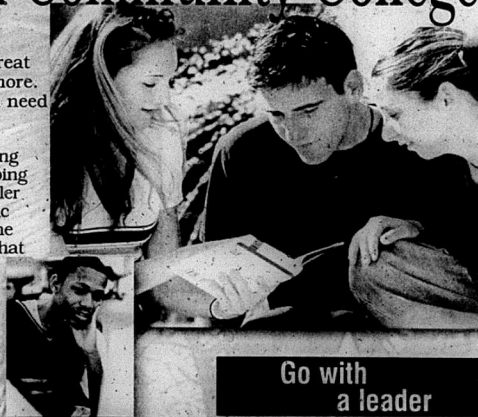
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Frankincense and Myrrh were practical gifts after all



Katrina Elksen
Contributing Editor

Around Christmas there was a joke going around that if the three wise men had been wise women, they would have asked for directions, gotten there on time, cleaned the stable, helped

deliver the baby and brought practical gifts.

This brought responses from Biblical scholars who pointed out that the wise men in the Bible did indeed ask for directions. They asked King Herod, and in doing so alerted him to the birth of the Christ child and resulted in the slaughter of the innocents.

This, the scholars quipped, is why, ever since, men have refused to ask for directions. Now there's more to the

story. Mark Plotkin, author of "Medicine Quest: In Search of Nature's Healing Secrets," maintains that the wise men did bring practical gifts.

Frankincense and Myrrh, he explains, are balms made from trees. These substances, according to the researcher, contain powerful natural antibiotics.

So the wise men brought the Christ child some gold (always a practical gift, especially for

new parents) and a first aid kit. Whether or not a child who would later be able to cure leprosy and raise the dead needed a first aid kit is not the point. At the time, gifts of rare healing oils would have been considered quite practical. The fact that Frankincense and myrrh also smelled good was just a bonus.

Dr. Plotkin's work recognizes the value of natural medicines and the need to document the use of these substances before

that knowledge is lost.

Therapies and cures that are considered old-fashioned often have real medicinal value. Researchers like Dr. Plotkin are trying to find out not just if a natural remedy works, but if it does, why it does.

I have always found home remedies interesting and sometimes quite useful. If you have a favorite home remedy, you can share it with the readers of this column.

Send it to: A healthier life,

c.o. Katrina Elksen, Okeechobee News, P.O. Box 685, Okeechobee, Fla. Or email kelsen@okeechobee.com.

Remember, check with your doctor before making any changes in your diet or exercise plan or before relying on a "home remedy" to treat a serious ailment. (I wouldn't advise trying to actually use Frankincense and myrrh in place of drugstore antibiotics and besides, I couldn't begin to guess at the dosage.)

ER Chronicles: A blood vessel had opened and bled in his brain



Arlen R.
Stauffer, MD

By Arlen R. Stauffer, MD

Terri watched in horror, frozen on her sofa. She had noticed Darren as he sprinted up the stairs and plopped into the overstuffed chair.

A sudden look of fear covered Darren's face, and he clutched the sides of his head with both hands. His eyes rolled back.

"Darren?" She managed to

struggle off the couch and move toward him. Darren didn't speak.

"Darren?"

"Oceans ER, this is Medic 38." The ER staff could hear the scream of the ambulance siren on the radio as the paramedic began her report. "We're three minutes out with a 44-year-old man who passed out."

Emergency physician Tammy Cortez was near the radio, and turned toward it to hear the details.

"He is awake and alert now, but complaining of severe headache."

Two emergency nurses had a bed and cardiac monitor ready when Darren's ambulance

stretcher rolled in, and Cortez followed the paramedic into the room.

"His blood pressure is 165 over 90 now," the paramedic reported. "His main complaint now is the pain."

The team pulled Darren onto the ER bed.

As oxygen tubing was placed into Darren's nose, and the heart monitor wires were connected to his chest, Cortez began some quick questions.

"Darren, did this start all at once?"

He nodded. He still pressed both hands against the sides of his head.

"I've never had anything..." His voice trailed off momentarily, but then he continued, "...nothing like this before."

Quickly, Cortez searched for more clues. She peered into his eyes with a lighted instrument, she tested the strength in his arms and legs, and she questioned his memory of the day and date. She asked about prior headaches, and about the use of drugs and alcohol.

"I don't do that stuff," Darren whispered. Then he moaned again.

Just then, Terri hurried into the room and past the curtain. She stepped between Cortez and the ER bed, not noticing

anything but her husband, and she grabbed his arm.

Feeling that touch, Darren looked up.

"I'm OK, Babe," He tried to sound convincing, but his eyes exposed his pain.

Cortez touched the back of Terri's shoulder, then moved up beside her. She spoke to both of them now.

"I'm concerned that Darren may have had a hemorrhage inside his head. We're going to take him across the hall for a CT scan now."

One nurse completed drawing Darren's blood into some testing tubes for the lab, and another was preparing the portable heart monitor for the trip to the CT room. Cortez walked with Terri to a small room.

"It will just take a few minutes for the CT scan, then I'll come back here and get you. Here's a phone if you want to call someone."

Cortez walked over to the CT room, and watched with her radiologist friend as the gray images of Darren's brain rolled up onto the monitor screen one by one.

Cortez drew a deep breath as the pictures uncovered the truth. Her suspicions were correct; a blood vessel had opened

and bled into Darren's brain.

Cortez only heard part of the radiologist's description of the hemorrhage. She was already planning her next move, and hurried back to the ER. As she rounded the corner by the nurses' station, she made a quick request.

"Get neurosurgery on the phone for me."

Then Cortez signaled through the doorway for Terri to follow her, and they arrived at Darren's room just as his stretcher was rolling back into place.

Darren still clutched the sides of his head. Terri was sobbing quietly, and stared intently through her red, watery eyes at the physician.

Cortez got directly to the point. "Darren, you've had some bleeding in your brain. It's what we call a subarachnoid hemorrhage, and it usually happens because of a leak in a small aneurysm on one of the blood vessels."

She paused for a moment to let this sink in. Neither Darren nor Terri spoke. They just stared at Cortez.

"But, Darren, your brain and all of your nerves still work now, so I'm hopeful that we can get this fixed before it causes

any permanent damage."

"What do we do now?" Terri finally managed to speak. "Damage?" She turned her gaze toward Darren's closed eyes.

Cortez went on to describe some medication that would be started, and told them about the upcoming evaluation by the neurosurgeon.

Darren remained still. Terri sat down in a chair next to his bed. Those last two words kept ringing in her mind.

"Permanent damage?" she asked.

Cortez was called to the telephone, the neurosurgeon was available.

Terri cried again.

Subarachnoid hemorrhage is reported to occur in nearly one of every 10,000 people each year, and has a mortality rate of more than 10 percent on the day of the bleed.

Most commonly, these hemorrhages result from the rupture of an aneurysm of one of the arteries at the base of the brain. Sudden, excruciating headache is a common presenting complaint, and transient loss of consciousness, as well as muscle weakness or the inability to speak, may also occur.

Treatment includes attempts at prevention of additional

bleeding or of spasm of the artery that could occlude the blood flow to that portion of the brain. Microsurgery to obliterate the ruptured aneurysm is undertaken when the patient is stable.

Dr. Stauffer, an emergency physician in New Smyrna Beach, is a member of the Florida College of Emergency Physicians. www.fcep.org

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Projects/From Page 1

after City Manager Ken Schenck said that no improvements have been made to the 9.11 acres of property.

Commissioner Babb noted that when the city was approached to annex the property, Mr. Perez had agreed to improve the property including paving and to correct any pre-

Belle Glade/From Page 1

awarded \$10,000 in the settlement.

Agreed to participate in a Core Regions Grant which will give \$21,868 to local businessman Wilson McMillian for improvements to his store, the Alabama Georgia store on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The grant required applicants to submit information about their business, what improvements they would like to make and how it would benefit the community. The city will provide in-kind services to meet the grant requirements. Other businesses may also be eligible for grant monies and may receive funding in next year's grant proposal.

Discussed. City Attorney Charles Schoech and Finance Director Dave Woods meeting with representatives of Glades Glen to discuss repayment to the city for back water service.

existing code enforcement problems that had been cited by the county.

Commissioner Babb also noted that annexing the property would add to the city's tax base, and any business locating on the property after it was annexed would be required to obtain an occupational license. Mayor Alvis Davis said he

Glades Glen owes the city over \$350,000 for tenant's water service. Commissioner Mary Rose Wilkerson said she is anxious for the city to recoup this money, but would not want the tenants, who have paid their water bills as part of their rent, to be punished for management's failure to pay the city.

Approved the first reading of an ordinance relating to non-exclusive franchise to NUI Corporation to install, operate and maintain a natural gas system within the city limits.

Heard from Tammy Moore asking citizens and the commissioners individually to support a petition protesting the firing of three part time employees for the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Moore said the employees were fired for leaving children on a bus with non-certified volunteers while they were

agreed with Mr. Babb that Mr. Perez should honor his commitment prior to annexation and said approval of the first reading should be seen as a good faith effort on the part of the commissioners.

Vice Mayor Roy Singletary noted that any code violations must be addressed before the property is annexed.

Agreed to send a city representative to the next South Bay City Commission meeting to discuss South Bay's repayment of monies owed to Belle Glade for Building Inspection services. They will also discuss continuing to provide fire rescue service to the City of South Bay and the charges for this.

Chief of Police Michael Reilly said, "South Bay really depends on us for fire rescue service."

City Attorney Schoech said, "The city should require South Bay to pay the money they owe. We need to let them know there is no more free lunch from the City of Belle Glade."



Sanitation Foreman Johnny Gooden, (front left) was honored as "Employee of the Month" by the Belle Glade City Commission on Monday, May 1. Mayor Harna Miller (front, right) presented the award. In back, left to right are Tommy Cone, Director of Public Services, and Kevin McNamara, Solid Waste Manager.

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OPINION PAGE

Feel strongly about local issues?

The Sun

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Speak Out is our 24-hour opinion line.

Call 996-6636 to express your opinion or ask questions about public issues.

You are not required to give your name. While we want you to speak out freely, the newspaper reserves the right to edit calls for clarity, brevity, relevance and fairness.

Deputies are taxpayers too

"This call is in reference to the commendation for Sheriff Neumann in a recent Speak Out column. Everyone has their opinion as to what Sheriff Robert Neumann did to Capt. Gary Frechette, who was the best captain to run this substation in many, many a year.

The deputies who work this area are probably as good, or better than any deputies we have within the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department. We, myself included, proudly serve the Glades area.

But, whoever wrote this article must not realize that deputies are taxpayers and citizens, too. And while the citizens and taxpayers, not overwhelmingly, put Robert Neumann in the sheriff's office, these same taxpayers and citizens can put Robert Neumann out of office.

While deputies are also citizens and taxpayers, so are their families and friends and we have the right to our political opinions to serve and sponsor who we want.

Thank you very much."

More on sheriff's race

"I would like to remind the writer from last week's article that we live in a society of free speech and the right to choose the person we feel best meets the needs of the people, either locally or nationally. The employees of the sheriff's office are dedicated to serving the people of the county and are supportive of the sheriff, if there is just cause.

However, Sheriff Neumann has made some poor decisions since he has been in office and therefore warrants rethinking for lack of support by his employees and even raised doubts by the community.

For example, the accusations made against Captain Gary Frechette, accusing him of having a relationship with a female he supervised. The sheriff's internal investigating staff thoroughly investigated this case and found no evidence to support his accusation. There wasn't even a victim. When the sheriff made the decision to fire Capt. Frechette, even after the investigation proved there wasn't any evidence he sent a message to his employees and the community that he had little faith in his own staff's ability to investigate a case.

Was it because he didn't like the results of their investigation? In addition, how does the sheriff justify replacing Captain Frechette with the present captain? Since he has been found guilty of sexual harassment and has caused the sheriff's office a lot of money to settle these cases.

Sexual harassment means any of monetary sexual favors (Ed. note: or made sexual comments) from someone you work with or supervise. So, is the sheriff saying it is all right with his agency to be found guilty of sexual harassment and as a reward, you get to keep your job, but if you are investigated and no wrong doing is found, your punishment

is, you get fired? Perhaps there are reasons to doubt Sheriff Neumann's ability to make good judgment.

Also, I'm still waiting to hear about the investigation involving the \$80,000 Sheriff Neumann paid to a female employee as a bonus for retiring. What does this suggest? Sheriff Neumann, if you are found guilty, will you get to keep your job?

Caller supports Mr. Wright

"This is concerning Mr. Wright, who is running for Palm Beach County Commissioner. Every body seems to like to criticize Mr. Wright, but they have taken a look around and seen what he has done?

He cleans our streets and he takes time for our children to teach them to clean up the place. I don't see any of the other candidates doing anything like this for Pahokee, even the mayor. So why are they so quick to judge Mr. Wright? Everyone needs to give Mr. Wright a chance. I think he'll be great for Pahokee. Thank you."

Another grant writer?

"As a taxpayer in the City of Belle Glade I'd like to know why they're trying to get another grants person when the city's 1999 Community Information Guide says: 'The Assistant to the City Manager is responsible for grant acquisition, public relations, and economic development.'

How glibly do they think the taxpayers are? Who's money do they think they're spending?

Please respond and please print because this is a waste of money. Utilize what you have to work with, don't take on another burden on the taxpayers without their permission. Thank you."

Community needs to rally

"I'm calling in reference to the Speak Out about paying water bills. Glades Glen is not the only one getting away without paying and continuing to have their water on. And, this isn't the only problem that exists with the City of Belle Glade Water Department.

For instance, I didn't receive one month's water bill. The next month, I received a bill for two months. On the same day that I received the bill, realizing that the month's before hadn't been paid, I mailed the payment in full on the same day. My water was turned off the next day."

When I called to see why my water was turned off, since I had mailed the bill the day before and they should have received it, I found out they had received it, but no one had opened the mail that day.

The community needs to rally. The cost of water is greater than my electric bill and higher than any others I have talked to in other cities."

See Speak Out/Page 5

Letters to the Editor

Pahokee folks are supportive

Dear Editor:

Our season of canal boat rentals out of the Pahokee City Marina went quite well this past winter. We very much look forward to an even busier one in the winter of 2000-2001. Much of our success can be attributed to all the good will, enthusiasm and great support from the folks of Pahokee and Palm Beach County.

The City of Pahokee opened their homes as well as their hearts to myself and my son, Owen. Everyone made us feel very much part of the

community. While in Pahokee, I joined the Elks Lodge and the Pahokee Yacht Club, which allowed me to meet a lot of wonderful folks.

Owen and I are looking forward to making Pahokee home once again next winter. See "y'all" at the tiki hut next fall.

Very fondly,
Libby Wiles

Mid-Lakes Navigation

Religious leaders have stepped forward

Dear Editor:

Martin Neimoller once said, "In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up." As is often the case, unless something comes and sits on the doorstep, we tend to consider it the other person's problem.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has come and sat on the doorstep of all Americans. No, there may not be someone in your immediate family who has AIDS or the HIV virus but each family in these United States feels the effects of this deadly disease. The cost alone to provide medication for

one AIDS/HIV patient is \$13,000 per year. Education is needed to instruct our community and nation in the prevention of the spread of this terrible virus.

A few local religious leaders have stepped forward to lead the way in this HIV prevention education. They are working with the Senior HIV Intervention Project (SHIP). These religious leaders are to be commended for their efforts in leading the way for the rest of us and also joined in the SHIP Spirit 2000 commitment to educate our local community about HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus).

Each of us should want to be a part of anything that will truly help our community. This is one effort that benefit has "life saving" results.

Robert Bauer
Belle Glade

Cooperative thanked for support

Dear Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. George Wedgworth and the directors and management at Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida for their understanding, support and help for permitting us to conduct the Elian's Ordeal Demonstration on April 25.

From our point of view we think the demonstration was carried out extremely well,

and that it was a great success, with a positive and strong message to the spectators, which was our goal. We also were very happy with the response and participation from the company employees as well as from our community, and, as always, another example of our good "team work."

We also would like to emphasize that we all feel very proud and grateful to be a part of this great family, "The Cooperative"

and we hope this great relationship will continue forever.

Again, thank you to Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative for all your help and cooperation. This kindness will always be in our hearts, that without the Cooperative, support of this event could never have been possible.

May God bless each of you and also this great nation.

Sincerely,

Make your home a safe haven

By Ann Hillenbrand
Radford University

Home is where we hang our hats, where the heart is and where we feel safe. Before you put your feet up and believe your castle is invincible take a couple of steps to make sure your home is a safe haven.

Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some action to reduce that risk. Radford University criminal justice professor and safety expert Tod Burke says crime prevention is a proactive stance against becoming a victim without making yourself paranoid and turning your house into a fortress.

To begin, check out your doors. "If there is any glass within reach of the door knob make sure your lock is a double cylinder deadbolt which requires a key on both sides of the door. Most burglars don't break glass when people are home and usually won't choose the front door. If you're at home keep the key to the deadbolt near the door region but out of arms reach," Burke says. A single cylinder deadbolt is best when there is no glass near the doorknob. The deadbolt should have at least a one inch throw bolt that goes into the frame of the door, any shorter and the thief could push the frame away from the lock. All deadbolts should be case hardened steel and make sure your door and frame is sturdy, adds Burke.

A sliding glass door is the most vulnerable and can easily be lifted off the track. "Homeowners can install a security bar for those doors and drill in screws in the upper track area which will allow the door to slide but not be lifted off," Burke says.

Windows are also vulnerable. "The clam shell locks on most windows are easy to jimmy open," says Burke, "and are very vulnerable." Burke suggests carefully drilling holes in the window frame at an angle and inserting roofing nails in those holes so people can't open the windows past a certain point. This still allows homeowners to open the window at will, but keeps burglars at bay.

It is also a good idea to keep shrubs along the home below window level so there is no place for a criminal to hide. Burglars want to get the easiest target, says Burke, and if they can't get into the home in a couple of seconds then they move on. A fence will also help keep intruders out. This is a psychological barrier rather than a physical one, since it eliminates what the thief sees as a clear route. Criminals also, do not like to be seen, so motion detector lights are also recommended.

Alarms are another way to protect your home. If you live in a remote area, Burke advises an audible alarm with flashing lights. There are also motion alarms and alarms that have a floor

mat you can place under the carpet in front of your valuables. When the thief steps on it, the alarm goes off.

If a thief gets into the home, they have a pretty good idea where the valuables are. They head to the master bedroom for the jewelry and the family room for the stereo and television. Burke advises homeowners to be creative and "spread the risk." For example, change around the location of jewelry, silver or antiques. The longer the burglar is in the home looking for valuables, the more likely they will get caught. It is also important to mark your valuables with a drivers license number, which is called "operation identification" by law enforcement. In case your valuables are stolen, this engraved information will help police locate them. Taking Polaroid pictures and making a list of the approximate value of your precious items are critical for insurance purposes and the items' recovery. However, it is not a good idea to take regular pictures and send them to the photo lab. "Those who work at the lab will have your name, address, phone number and a catalogue of what's in your house," cautions Burke. A video tape of your valuables placed in a safe deposit box is also a good idea.

Key control is also very important. How many keys are out there and who has them? And putting keys under flower pots, lawn ornaments or welcome mats is not a very good idea.

But most importantly, always make sure your house looks lived in. Ask your neighbor to pick up your mail and newspapers. If you cancel your newspapers and mail, the mail carriers and newspaper delivery service would know you are not at home. Also, have a neighbor park their car in your driveway and put trash in your trash bins on garbage pick-up day.

Fire Safety

"Have a fire safety checklist and practice an escape route," says Burke. Place smoke detectors and fire extinguishers on each floor and keep a rope ladder in the children's room for use in case of a fire emergency.

The materials in your home could make a difference on the severity of fire damage. Radford University interior design instructor Teresa Edwards says as far as building codes are concerned there are no stipulations on fire resistant finishes for private residences.

Edwards suggests commercial grade carpets instead of residential because they are more fire resistant as well as anti-microbial, which inhibits bacterial growth in the product. "Many people think of commercial grade products as corporate, sterile looking or perhaps too contemporary. A certified interior designer can point you to beautiful commercial materials with vibrant colors. There is a wonderful variety of products out there but people aren't aware that interior designers have access to that."

The Sun

A PLEDGE TO OUR READERS

We pledge...

- ✓ To operate this newspaper as a public trust.
- ✓ To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- ✓ To provide the information citizens need to make their own decisions about public issues.
- ✓ To report the news with honesty, accuracy, fearlessness and compassion.
- ✓ To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- ✓ To correct our errors, and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- ✓ To provide a right to reply to those about whom we write.
- ✓ To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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SUNSPOTS/From Page 1

Books wanted

Give a gift that will last a lifetime - please donate new or used books for students at Kathryn E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary School.

A book drive is on at the school and they want to help all their students to have books in their homes to read during the summer.

For more information, call the school at 924-6460.

Parents invited

Lake Shore Middle School parents are invited to the last Student Advisory Committee meeting of the year.

The SAC meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9. Dinner will be served and there will be entertainment by the "No-Lite Drama Club."

Volunteers needed

The Area Agency on Aging's Foster Grandparent Program is seeking limited-income seniors to volunteer in Glades school classrooms 20 hours a week. Eligible seniors will

receive a small stipend and transportation assistance.

For more information, please call 1-800-773-1895.

Nurses Week Luncheon

Attention Glades community nurses. There will be a Nurses Week 2000 Luncheon on Thursday, May 11 at 1 p.m. at Glades General Hospital in the cafeteria to honor all Glades community nurses. Local licensed nurses in the Glades are invited to attend this free luncheon. The speaker will be Marilyn Parker, RN, PhD, who is the Associate Dean and Professor at Florida Atlantic University's School of Nursing. Nurses planning to attend should RSVP to 996-6571, extension 500.

The Glades Boys & Girls Clubs is sponsoring Summer Camp 2000 in all of the area elementary schools. The camp is open to kids ages 5-18 at the following locations: Gove Elementary, Glade View Elementary, Belle Glade Teen Center, Canal Point Elementary, Rosenwald

Elementary and Lake Shore Middle.

The camp includes field trips, fishing trips swimming lessons trips to see the Florida Marlins, the Miami Seaquarium, Palm Beach flying, model airplanes, nature hikes, plant horticulture, Solid Waste Authority tour, scrap art, pine Jog tour, the Science Museum and gardening education.

Sessions begin May 30 through June 9; June 12 through June 23; June 26-July 7; July 10 through July 21; July 24 through August 4 and August 7 through August 11.

Costs vary according to times and registration is open until May 26 or until all spaces are filled.

Participants receive free lunch and t-shirts are available for an additional \$6. The hours of the camp are from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Refunds for fees and field trips must be requested 24 hours in advance. The camp is closed on July 4.

For further information call 992-5300.

Speak Out/From Pg. 1

"All these deputies who are speaking out against Sheriff Neumann. What they need to do if they're going to speak out is speak out on their own time. Don't get out here and campaign while they are in their uniform."

Go home and change clothes. But they want to do it while they're working. That's not right and they know it's not right and he should fire them all. Send them down the road. See what happens to them then and then they can get out and campaign all they want."

Housing authority

"I'm a concerned citizen living in the (Pahokee) housing authority projects. I just don't understand why they are putting so many people out of the projects."

They say they are putting them out because they have men staying with them. So what? They stay in houses with their mommas and have their names on other people's lease.

They know women are going to have men staying there. What do they want? Women having women?

Tenants stand up, try to stick together and try to get these people out of the housing authority administration. The tenants need to come together and see what they can do because too many people are leaving the projects.

These are people on zero rent and they are charging them for putting their screens and windows in. How are they going to pay this if they are on zero rent?

I just don't know what they are trying to prove. They are not stable. So tenants, let's

stand up and speak up and try to get them out of there. A concerned citizen."

Not Cuban-American, but understands

"I'm calling in reference to the Elian Gonzalez case. I think it's really unfortunate that people cannot understand the situation in Cuba. I also think that there are some real problems of anger against Cuban-Americans because of their success in this area. People may not be able to appreciate the pain and suffering they have suffered in Cuba and don't understand why Cuban-Americans are passionate."

I am not Cuban-American, but I can understand the anguish about the situation in Cuba. I just wanted to say this."

Swarm of twisters in Oklahoma



Mike Lyons

At first glance, I thought there was something wrong with the radar. It was lit up like a Christmas tree, displaying multiple storms sweeping across Oklahoma. But these were no ordinary storms. If the radar was operating correctly, a series of powerful tornadoes were ripping through the Oklahoma City region.

As it turned out, there was nothing wrong with the machinery. The echoes on the radar screen were tornadoes, part of one of the worst tornado outbreaks in United States history.

One year ago this week, a seemingly endless swarm of twisters cut a 150-mile path of destruction through central Oklahoma and southern Kansas. All together, 65 tornadoes touched down on the afternoon and evening of May 3, 1999. How bad was this outbreak? Consider this fact: at least one twister was on the ground at every moment from

4:45 to 10:45 p.m. Even by Oklahoma standards, home to more tornadoes than any other part of the country, this was an unbelievable event.

Still, all of the twisters that rampaged through the plains that May afternoon and evening, one tornado stands out. A report from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) summarizes this one monster storm.

A single tornado that touched down outside of Oklahoma City, hit Bridge Creek at 6:55 p.m., moved through several small subdivisions, slammed into Moore, began a wide left turn and traveled into Del City, skirted Tinker Air Force Base and then moved into Midwest City where it dissipated," says the report.

The National Weather Service estimated that this single tornado destroyed over 2,750 homes, damaged another 8,000, killed 41 people and injured 800 more. History tells us that there has not been a twister like this one since an F4 tornado devastated Wichita Falls, Texas in 1979.

As it turned out, there may never have been a tornado like the Oklahoma City monster. Scientists believe the Oklahoma City tornado was an F5 on the Fujita Tornado Intensity scale. An F5 means a tornado has winds between 261 to 318 mph.

Officials in Oklahoma measured winds of 318 mph, making it the strongest tornado ever recorded. It was also the costliest, producing over one billion dollars in damage. This single tornado destroyed nearly three times as many structures as any other previous tornado.

Thankfully this was a rare event. Around 1,000 tornadoes form each year in the United States, yet only 2% fall into the categories of F4 and F5.

Here in Florida, these monster storms are even more rare. The Sunshine State has never recorded an F5 tornado, and there's only been two recorded F4 tornadoes.

Still, tornadoes are fairly common in Florida. The state ranks fourth-behind Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas in tornado frequency, averaging 45 twisters each year.

Thankfully, most of Florida's tornadoes are weak with winds around 100 mph.

Still, even a weak tornado can kill and injure people, as well as producing millions of dollars in damage each year. History tells us that most of our tornadoes develop in May, June and July, but a tornado can form in any month and at just about any time in Florida.

We don't have to worry about the monster storms that hit in Oklahoma one year ago this week, but tornadoes are a fact of life in the Sunshine State.

CRIME STOPPERS



Bill Griffin

Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County, Inc., is asking citizens to help locate Bill Griffin, who is wanted for failure to appear on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, resisting arrest with violence and domestic battery.

Griffin is a black male, 6'0" tall, and weighs 160 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes and his date of birth is June 26, 1966.

His last known address was 524 S.W. 9th Street, Apartment 1, Belle Glade. His last occupation was as a laborer. His warrant was active as of April 24, 2000.

If you know the whereabouts of Bill Griffin or anyone involved in a serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-8477. You can remain anonymous and still receive a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

Arrest Blotters

Editor's note: The police news on this page lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

BELLE GLADE

The Belle Glade Police Department handled 588 complaints and gave 42 traffic citations the week of April 24-30.

Those arrested included: April 24 - Kenneth Eugene Fritz, 33, aggravated domestic battery on a pregnant woman; Courtney Gross, 24, assault.

April 25 - Herman Thomas, 28, opposing and obstructing a police officer.

April 26 - Tyjuan Shannonhouse, 21, burglary to a conveyance, dealing in stolen property and grand theft; Ronnie Mincey, 20, battery.

April 27 - No arrests made. April 28 - Roosevelt Shelby, 33, aggravated domestic battery with a deadly weapon. April 29 - Jose Garcia, 27, possession of cocaine; Carmelo Martinez, 22, possession of marijuana under 20 grams; Leroy Alexander, 33, grand theft auto, grand theft of a firearm and aggravated stalking; Juvenile, 17, retail theft; Juvenile, 16, retail theft; Meroldieu Marselle, 18, obstruction without violence; Pierre Charles Abland, 44, resisting arrest with violence and battery; David Robinson, 19, armed robbery with a gun, petty theft and two counts of resisting an officer with violence.

April 30 - Marco Lule, 30, trespassing after warning; Shamka Henderson, 22, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon; Juvenile, 15, warrants for resisting arrest with violence, disrupting a school function and possession of a weapon on school property; Bruce Wilson Ward, 40, domestic battery; Inez Martinez, 42, attempted first degree murder.

PAHOKEE

The Pahokee Police Department handled 228 calls, issued six traffic citations and made 13 arrests the week of April 24-30.

Those arrested included: April 24 - Alvaughn Johnson Jr., 18, violation of a no contact order; Doris Henderson, 40, violation of the open container law; William Thompson, 26, simple battery.

April 25 - Gerard St. Simon, 58, affray. April 26 - No arrests made.

April 27 - Ossie Polk, 25, warrant for failure to appear in court.

April 28 - Juvenile, 15, burglary; Jamie Nelson, 35, warrant for violation of probation; Yolanda Banks, 36, disorderly intoxication; Joseph Holmes, 41, simple battery.

April 29 - Phillip Holmes, 40, aggravated assault; Joseph McCants, 356, disorderly intoxication.

April 30 - Fedrick McNeal, 47, battery, possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting arrest without violence; Kevin Wilson, 23, domestic battery.

SOUTH BAY

The South Bay Police Department made 8 arrests the week of April 23-29.

Those arrested included: April 23-Mackie L. West, 21, warrant for home invasion; James C. Bother, 21, battery, and criminal mischief; Robert Simpson, 42, possession of cocaine and obstructing justice.

April 24 - Michael Williams, 25, violation of probation on charges of grand theft.

April 25 - Cravelyn Hooker, 29, failure to appear on charges of driving without a valid drivers license and violation of the open container law; Timothy E. Teel, 32, failure to appear on charges of driving without a drivers license.

April 26 - James Green, 52, obstructing justice.

April 27 - Buster A. Brockman, 27, warrant for failure to appear; Johnny J. Young, 29, domestic battery.

April 28 - Craveland T. Hooker, 29, littering.

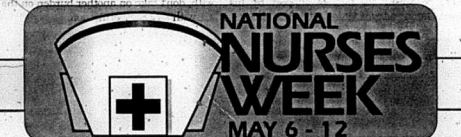
April 29 - No arrests made.

PALM BEACH COUNTY**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office made 1 arrest the week of April 26-May 2.

Those arrested included: April 26 - No arrests made. April 27 - No arrests made. April 28 - No arrests made. April 29 - No arrests made.

April 30 - Juvenile, 17, Pahokee, simple battery, domestic. May 1 - No arrests made. May 2 - No arrests made.



ANNUAL COMMUNITY NURSES LUNCHEON

Thursday May 11 1:00 P.M.

Glades General Hospital

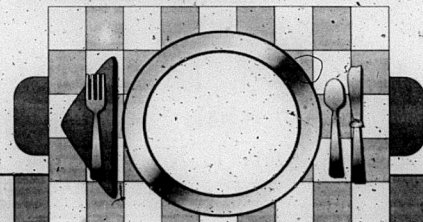
Cafeteria

All Glades Community

Nurses Invited

Speaker: Marilyn Parker, RN, PhD - Associate Dean and Professor, Florida Atlantic University

Please RSVP: 996-6571, ext. 500





The annual Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament was held Saturday, April 29 at the Belle Glade Golf Course. Shown helping at the event are, from left Janise Goforth, executive director of the Chamber, Rachel Cranford and Chamber Board Member Rita Schoenfeld.

Chamber Golf Tournament a success

The annual Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament was held Saturday, April 29 at the Belle Glade Golf Course.

Winners were:

•First place team—Okeelanta Corporation, Israel Baez, Ronnie Hilyer, Jr., Adrian Rodriguez, and Johnny Tellechea.

•Second place team—Dennis Kerr, Gordon Ruff, David Lawrence and Joe Zibelli.

Third place team—Wedgworth's, Matt Hilyer, Ronnie Hilyer, Tim McKee and Jon Mock.

•Closest to pin—Hole 13 & 17, Danny Abercrombie; Hole #3, bob Haugstad; and Hole #7, Mike Pozo.

According to Belle Glade Chamber Director Janise Goforth, "The weather was beautiful and we had a great



Future golf pro...Dennis Mikell, the young son of Lee and Traci Mikell of Belle Glade, demonstrates his swing with his own set of golf clubs during Saturday's Belle Glade Chamber Golf Tournament.

time. The Chamber thanks all who participated and we look

forward to having a bigger and better tournament next year.

Qualifying for juniors golf contest this week

Qualifiers for the National Juniors' Putt, Pitch and Drive Contest, a nationwide tiered junior golf skills competition will be held May 6 at Family Golf Center in West Palm Beach, and on May 13 at Tradition Golf Course in Royal Palm Beach.

Starting at the local level, qualifiers advance to regional competitions, where 60 junior golfers and a chaperone from across the US will qualify for an expense paid trip to compete at the national final in Orlando. The three age categories for the competition

are 10 and under, 11-14 and 15-17.

The entry fee is \$39 and includes entry into the event, a logo polo golf shirt, golf cap and a golf oriented educational clinic.

For more information contact Ed Russo (561) 615-9388.

Palm Glade Head Start holds 'hop-a-thon' for Jerry's kids

It takes a special kind of person to care about children and adults with neuromuscular diseases and that's why Palm Glade Head Start Center is supporting the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The children got a big bang out of hopping and participated in a variety of other activities. They received various tokens for their participation. It was a fun-filled

day. On hand to help make the day were program godparents Annie Solomon and Marry Dannon.

Ms. Cook, CDA II, and staff were very impressed with parent participation and contributions made to helping Jerry's kids.

Just a reminder. Palm Glade Head Start is still recruiting 3-5 year olds for the 2000-01 year. For more information, phone 996-9708.



Alesha Glee.

Clewiston to celebrate annual Sugar Festival Saturday, May 13

America's sweetest town, Clewiston, is hosting a full day of fun and entertainment for the entire family at the 14th annual Sugar Festival to be held Saturday, May 13. Food booths, arts and crafts, and old-fashioned cane grinding are all part of the celebration that marks the end of the annual sugar cane harvest in the farming region south of Lake Okeechobee.

Residents and visitors from around the state are expected to gather at the state's sugar capital located on the shores of Lake Okeechobee from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for this annual spring festival. The day's activities will be headquartered at Clewiston's city park. Admission to the festival is free.

Two of Florida's most in-

demand country music acts, Margo Rochelle & Rodeo Drive and "Heat Music" Recording Artist, Samantha Russell will headline a full day of continuous live entertainment. Other featured performers include local gospel band "Strings of Praise," variety entertainer Wade Henry from Clearwater, country vocalist Kimberly Lamb from Everglades City, local Blue Grass vocalist Eric Simmons, local country vocalist Derrick Hughes and the local dance troupe from the Harvest of Hope Hispanic Dance Club.

Festival attractions include an arts and crafts show, a car show that will include the McDonalds NASCAR automobile, exhibits of old and new farming equipment and

old fashioned cane grinding. Booths featuring local and regional food will serve festival goers. There will also be a 5K walk/run, a horseshoe tournament and an art show featuring local artists. A Fun Park featuring a rock-climbing wall, a giant slide and carousel will be available to everyone for a fee of \$5.

One of the most popular events will be the Sweet Taste of Sugar Country Dessert Contest.

Festival organizers said they expect several thousand visitors to come to Clewiston for the festival.

For more information call the Sugar Festival Committee at (863) 902-2409 or the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce at (863) 983-7979.

Mental Health Clinic sponsors 'Million Mom March' in Belle Glade

Joe Amato, executive director for Western Palm Beach County Mental Health Clinic, Inc. (WCMHC), announced the clinic's sponsorship of the Million Mom March in the Belle Glade community on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14 beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the Belle Glade City Hall. This event is part of a national event in which mothers, honorary mothers, fathers, grandparents and children will attend similar events in Washington, D.C. and in dozens of other communities across the nation. The purpose of this event is to send a strong message to Congress, urging them to take responsible action by passing sensible gun laws during this session. March participants will use this event as a vehicle to communicate to Congress that citizens expect positive results and

elect officials will be held accountable for not producing reasonable legislation. The group is calling on Congress to pass a law requiring licensing with safety training and registration of guns, a measure that assures certain principles that everyone can support.

According to Amato, violence is an issue that affects the emotional and physical wellbeing of everyone in this community. "We have committed to sponsoring this event in order to create an overall awareness, while offering a meaningful way for all concerned citizens to take a stand against violence in this community," he said. "During the course of providing services to residents of this community we have become increasingly aware of the devastating effects violence has on our clients. It is quite difficult

for any person, regardless of their age, to perform well in their daily life when they do not feel safe," he added. Mr. Amato explained that the clinic is concerned about all forms of violence, not only the incidents involving guns.

The march will conclude with a Cook-Out and community Celebration at Western Palm Beach County Mental Health Clinic's Main Office located at 1024 N.W. Avenue "D" in Belle Glade. This Cook-Out is also a celebration of Mental Health Awareness Month. March participants are encouraged to bring friends, family members and children to join in this fun-filled day of meaningful celebration and advocacy.

The clinic operates a wide array of programs to meet the

Continued on page 7

Villa Lago Homes

TO ALL FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS INTERESTED IN BUYING A HOME AT THE NEWLY-REMODELED, AFFORDABLE VILLA LAGO PLANNED COMMUNITY:

Centro Campesino Farmworker Center, Inc.
announces:
CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN

It is now time to select your home!

Come to the office of Centro Campesino to apply TODAY!!!

The Planned Community of affordable homes at Villa Lago offers these special amenities to the first time Home Owner:

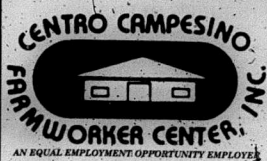
- 101 Single-Family Homes
- 3 and 4 Bedrooms with 2 Complete Baths
- 2 Bedrooms with 1 Complete Baths
- Central Air-conditioning
- New Kitchens
- Spacious Living and Dining Rooms
- 3 Bedroom from \$84,000*
- 4 Bedroom from \$86,500*
- 2 Bedroom from \$59,000*

(Prices subject to change. *Low interest loans available. Qualified applicants receive financial assistance from Palm Beach County's HOME and/or SHIP programs.)

In addition, each New Home Owner will participate in a Home Owner's Association that will work to protect the Property Value of each Home Owner and ensure a safe and beautiful community for all residents.

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Sudden death of Ed Upthegrove shocks community

By Patty Brant

& Jean Anderson

Flags at the public schools in Hendry County are flying at half-staff until Friday as school employees, students, family and friends mourn the death of Hendry County Schools Superintendent Edward Alan Upthegrove.

Mr. Upthegrove died of apparent natural causes early Sunday morning, April 30, 2000 in Brookfield, Mo., while on a hunting trip. First elected to the position of schools superintendent in 1992, he was preparing to again run for the office in November.

He was a member of the Florida School Music Association, Florida Association of District School Superintendents and served as chairman of the Hendry-Glades School Readiness Coalition.

Friends from early school days in Canal Point to those who served with him in more recent years had loving things to say about Ed Upthegrove.

"I attribute a lot of my success as superintendent of schools to Ed," said Bill Burke, Hendry County school superintendent for nine years. "I think he was sometimes too caring and it was hard for him to say no. I never gave him an assignment but what he didn't go



Ed Upthegrove

all out to complete it."

LaBelle High School Principal Paul Puletti remembered his longtime friend and colleague this way:

"I've known Ed Upthegrove for more than 20 years. His strengths were his open-mindedness and ability to quickly grasp the bottom line of an issue. Once an issue and a plan were identified, he followed up with his support — we knew we had the backing of the superintendent. His greatest contribution to the school system was his ability to put the best people in the best places to do the best job. The schools are open and doing a good job because he was not afraid to give control to those who could do the job. The system is better off for

him having been in it."

"Ed Upthegrove is undoubtedly the nicest person I've ever met," said Kay Hall, who worked alongside Mr. Upthegrove while serving as school publicist for nine years. "He treated everybody with respect and kindness, and he went out of his way to speak to people. As he moved up the career ladder this probably became a tremendous burden, but he didn't let it show. I can't think of anyone who touched more lives in Hendry County and tried so hard to please so many."

Mr. Upthegrove was a nice guy from an early age according to Hendry County Commission Chairman William C. (Bo) Pelham who fondly remembers moving to Canal Point and meeting young Ed, who lived on the same street.

"Ed was my first friend in Canal Point. He was a very nice person then and he continued that way throughout his entire life," Comm. Pelham said Monday.

Mr. Upthegrove was appointed an assistant superintendent of public instruction in 1983 and in 1992 he was elected to fill the position of superintendent. He began his career in education after graduation from Pahokee High School in 1966, receiving first an associate's degree from Palm Beach Jr. College in 1968, his bachelor's degree in 1970 from the University of South Florida and a master's degree from Nova University in 1974.

He was a teacher of social studies at Clewiston High School from 1970 to 1974 and became assistant director of adult education from 1974 until 1976. From 1976 to 1979 he was assistant principal of Clewiston Middle School and principal from 1979 to 1983.

Mr. Upthegrove, 51, was born in Pahokee August 12, 1948, the son of the late Oseola and Ella Louise Forst Upthegrove. He was married to the former Beverly Anne Wilkinson of Pahokee, who survives. He is also survived by a

daughter, Maggie, Leanne Upthegrove and a son, Edward Ryan Upthegrove, all of LaBelle. Other survivors include his stepmother, Ruth Upthegrove of West Palm Beach, four sisters, Donna Kiesick of Sebring and Sandra Upthegrove, Kristi Upthegrove and Joy Upthegrove, all of West Palm Beach, two grandchildren, Clay and Cole Upthegrove, three nieces and seven nephews.

A funeral service is planned for 3 p.m. Thursday, May 4, at the LaBelle High School gymnasium. The Rev. Frank Deery Jr., the Rev. Tony Miller, the Rev. Dwayne Brown and the Rev. John Gill Jr. will officiate. Burial will follow at the Fort Denaud Cemetery.

All county public schools will dismiss early that day and no school lunch will be served. LaBelle school buses will run according to Swamp Cabbage release schedule and Clewiston buses will run on the Homecoming release schedule.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Edward A. Upthegrove Memorial Scholarship Fund at First Federal Savings Bank of the Glades in LaBelle or Clewiston.

XI Zeta Mu meet

Members of Xi Zeta Mu held their regular monthly meeting at the home of hostess Laura Mae Enfinger on March 27. The meeting was hosted by Janice Goforth. A beautiful Easter theme was carried throughout the evening.

Ms. Goforth, chapter president, presided over the meeting. Election of officers were held and will be installed at the May meeting.

Plans were made to attend Founder's Day in April. The gift raffle winner was Gloria Swager. Those in attendance were: Florence Acree, Sandra Chambliss, Karen Corbin, Laura Mae Enfinger, Jane Evans, Janice Goforth, Judy McMillan, Linda McMillan, Pat McKee, Laverne Motes, Sara Phillips, Gloria Swager, Laurel Tary and Greadie York.



Robert Haggins and Christa Scruggs

Scruggs-Haggins to wed

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Scruggs Jr. of Pensacola and Mr. and Mrs. Craig Crews of Clewiston announce the engagement of Christa Scruggs to Robert Haggins of Belle Glade.

The prospective groom is the son

of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Haggins of Belle Glade.

The wedding is planned for May 20, 2000 at Canal Point Baptist Church.

The bride-to-be attended Clewiston High School.



Scott Bergman and Lori Ann Bruchi

Bruschi-Bergman to wed

Fred and Paula Weigel of West Palm Beach are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lori Ann Bruschi, to Scott Bergman of Lighthouse Point. The prospective groom is the son of Bernard and Carol Bergman of Lighthouse Point.

The wedding is planned for Oct. 14 in Royal Palm Beach.

The bride to be is employed as

the manager of Loris Grill. The groom is a 1979 graduate of Middletown High School, South Middletown, N.J. He graduated from Monmouth College in Long Branch, N.J. He is employed as the manager of the Wellington Hess Mart.

After the wedding the couple will reside in Royal Palm Beach.

PBCC students named to All-Florida Academic Team

The State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) has named three Palm Beach Community College students to the 2000 All-Florida Academic Team. Robert Grapide from PBCC in Belle Glade was selected for Second Team honors.

The honorees were recognized for outstanding academic achievement, leadership abilities and community service.

Students were nominated for the

All-USA Academic Team, sponsored by USA Today and Phi Theta Kappa international honor society. Their standing in the national competition earned them appointment to the All-Florida Team.

This year 116 community college and private college students were selected to represent the state. They were honored at an awards luncheon April 27 in Tallahassee.

Beta Sigma Phi meets

The Nu Kappa chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held its March meeting at the home of Julie Zambory. A program was given on various table settings for both seasonal and special occasions. St. Patrick's Day gifts were exchanged and everyone enjoyed the delicious array of refreshments served by the hostess. Members in attendance were Elizabeth Harrington, Betty Hodges, Nora Ornelas, Marsha Smith and Becky White.

The chapter's April meeting was co-hosted by Betty Hodges and Tina Herring. Easter was the theme with Easter bags and goodies. The refreshments were various cold salads which included "eggs." The members voted on the "Girl of the Year" and exchanged secret sister Easter gifts. Attending the meeting were Nora Ornelas, Marsha Smith, Elizabeth Harrington, Julie Zambory and Becky White.

Moms March to stop violence

MARCH/From 6

needs of Glades area residents including early family prevention/intervention programming, an intensive residential substance abuse program called PANDA, therapeutic and case management programs for adults and children, residential and day treatment programs for residents with severe and persistent mental illness, crisis support and stabilization and various other programs. The clinic has been a leader in the provision of mental health and emotional wellness services in the Glades for the past 19 years. The not-for-profit clinic offers a multidisciplinary staff and is directed by a Board of Directors headed by Kenneth Schenck.

For more information on this event, contact Carleen Downing at 992-2024 or 992-1364. For more information the clinic's services and programs, contact the clinic's main office at 992-1330.



Several local students received bachelor of science degrees in organizational management from Palm Beach Atlantic College during commencement exercises April 29 at PBAC. Pictured left to right are Ronelda Frederick, Shana Benjamin and Nikole Harrell. Not pictured are Tyron Arnett, Cynthia Stewart and Wilma Royal.

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Sports this week.

Eleven Raiders track stars to compete in state finals Saturday after winning regionals

By Tracy Whirls

Glades Central's defending state champion track team took first place honors in the boys 4-2A regionals Friday and second place among the girls and will send qualifiers to the state championship Saturday, May 6 in Gainesville.

The Glades Central boys track team earned its 23rd consecutive district title April 20, led by double-event winners Steve Messam and Fred Robinson and qualifying at least one athlete in each of the 17 events. In regional competition last Friday, April 28, Messam took second place in the long jump and first place in the triple jump. Robinson took second in the 100 meter dash. Glades Central's boys also took second place in the 4x100 relay, and the 4 x400 relay. Also qualifying for the state finals for the Raiders, Antonio Hill took third in the 110 high hurdles as well as the 300 hurdles, and Santonio Thomas took fourth place in the discus and first place in the Shot Put.



Recovering from injuries, Glades Central's track team will compete in the state finals Saturday.

Johnny Mullins earned third place in the 110 high hurdles and Santonio Holmes took second in the 400, while Jimmy Vincent took fourth.

The Glades Central girls team took second place overall in the girls regional competition. Anita Perkins, who was a triple event champion in district action, took first place in 100 high hurdles, and third place in the 400.

Charlisa Anderson took first place in the triple jump and fourth in the long jump. Calvina Edwards took fourth place in the 100 for Glades Central and Sibhon Fergiel earned second in the shot put, while Cynischelle Vickers took third in the high jump.

In team competition, the girls took third in the 4x100 relay and the 4 x 400 relay.



Fred Robinson gets his leg wrapped by assistant coach Ray McDonald.



Coach Willie McDonald



Glades Central's boys track team has earned 23 consecutive district titles and will return to the state finals as defending state champions this Saturday.



Na'Tonya Waters



Shatoya Butts

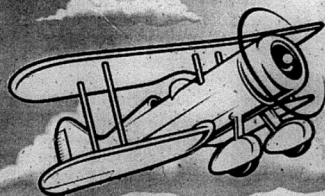


Jaquetta Milton and Anita Perkins

Photos by
Adrian "Big A" Vereen

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Students at Pahokee High School viewed an exhibit prepared by SHIP coordinator Alex Schaffer chronicling local efforts to eradicate AIDS in the Glades.

AIDS cases continue to climb in the Glades, SHIP Coordinator tells Pahokee students

By Tracy Whirls

Alyx Schaffer, community outreach coordinator for the Senior HIV Intervention Project took her message to students at Pahokee High School last Thursday in an ongoing effort to break the silence on HIV and AIDS.

Ms. Schaffer, who most often works with senior citizens, said when she works with those populations they ask her why she's not talking to young people.

"HIV has bridged all generational and cultural gaps. We're all affected by HIV, if not physically then emotionally, economically and spiritually."

Ms. Schaffer noted that when the AIDS epidemic began it was considered a "gay, white male disease." Now the disease is growing fastest among black heterosexual women, making black women an endangered species.

Ms. Schaffer presented the students with alarming statistics:

- There were 1,239 cases of full-blown AIDS in Western Palm Beach County in Feb. 1999. Of those, 2 percent were white, 94 percent black and 3 percent Hispanic.

- In the 49 year-plus population the normally serves, there were 258 people diagnosed with AIDS in Feb. 99. In Feb. 2000, there were 278.

- "Is that population too old for you? Let's start from the cradle. In 1999, there were 40 cases of AIDS among children under 5. There were 42 in Feb. 2000. You all are



Alyx Schaffer, SHIP outreach coordinator, showed students the new OraSure HIV test which can detect the presence of HIV orally, without requiring a blood test.

how old? Sixteen, seventeen? There were 14 cases among 13-19 year olds. Now there are 16. Among 20-29 year olds, there were 262 AIDS cases in 1999; there were 294 in Feb. 2000. Among 30-39 year olds, there were 381 cases in 1999, now there are 445 in Feb. 2000. In the 40-49 population, AIDS cases rose from 278 in 1999 to 309 in Feb. 2000."

Overall, Ms. Schaffer said, among whites the numbers rose from 29 in 1999 to 35 in Feb. 2000, among blacks from 1,171 in 1999 to 1,265 and among Hispanics from 39 to 45.

"This is reality. I want to hit you

square in the face with it so you can grow up to be as old as I am," Ms. Schaffer said.

She notes that the statistics only represent those with full-blown AIDS. The number of persons who are HIV positive is unreliable, because testing is not mandatory.

"The law does not require HIV testing because there is no cure. For that reason it is important that each individual know his or her own HIV status," Ms. Schaffer said.

Ms. Schaffer told the students HIV is transmitted through the exchange of four basic bodily fluids: vaginal fluids, semen, breast milk and blood through the skin or mucous membranes, if the tissue is torn or abraded.

Ms. Schaffer encouraged the students to talk to their parents and their teachers about HIV and AIDS and to join local ministers and others in "breaking the silence" about AIDS and HIV.

"You don't give HIV to a stranger on the street corner. You only give it to those you love, people you are intimate with," said Ms. Schaffer.

The next SHIP Spirit 2000 Street Outreach Revival will be May 11 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Mitchell will lead the procession to the Wesleyan Community Holiness Church, also on Fourth Street in Belle Glade, where Rev. Clifford Davis and his congregation will join the group. The public is invited.

Family Involvement Parent Training workshops at Canal Point a success

Mrs. Gloria Williams and Mrs. Oraida Potter Of Kathryn E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary have successfully concluded their third Family Involvement Parent Training for this school year.

Mrs. Oraida Potter, Ms. Mildred Estrella and Mrs. Gloria Williams facilitated a series of 5 MegaSkills Workshops for parents. Each workshop had a separate topic, which included Confidence, Motivation, Effort, Responsibility, Common Sense and Problem Solving.

The basic theme throughout the workshops was to support

parent efforts as they support the needs of their children, which is done through the practical ideas contained in the MegaSkills program. The facilitators were very pleased with the participation in the workshops and received positive feedback from the parents.

The MegaSkills staff would like to give thanks to Father John and Sister Maria Elena for their help, support and use of the Saint Mary's Catholic Church Hall. Thanks to all parents who attended the program and volunteers Heather Burroughs, Luz Torres, Jossie Torres and Shantoria Smith who assisted with child care.

The program concluded with a spaghetti dinner to recognize the parents who completed the MegaSkills Workshop. The following parents received a certificate of completion: Maria Montoya, Maria R. Ruiz, Consuelo Jalmes, Leonila Calvillo, Anita Pacheco, Dina Potter, Isabel Gonzalez, Maria C. Gomez, Marbella Medina, Aurelia Toribio, Jobebed Toribio, Elisa Larios, Diana Larios, Albertina Montoya, Maria Aguilar, Fredesiminda Baltazar, Silvia Gomez, Paula Campos, Rosa Hernandez, Patsy Lee, Michelle Lugo, Patricia Hernandez and Zenaida Roja.

Belle Glade Elementary takes second place in SECME Regional Olympiad

Belle Glade Elementary School earned second place overall in the Elementary School Regional Championships during the SECME Regional Olympiad March 25 at Roosevelt Middle School in West Palm Beach.

Approximately 350 students from 19 schools in Palm Beach County and 14 schools in Broward County participated in the Olympiad.

During the Olympiad students participated in a variety of competitions including bann, brain bowl, bridge, essay, mousetrap car, water rocket, poem and poster.

SECME is a program geared to encouraging students to consider pursuing careers in science, mathematics, engineer-

ing, and technology. Florida Atlantic University gives 25 four-year full-tuition scholarships each year to qualified SECME students.

Questions regarding SECME may be directed to SECME program director Corinne Measelle at (561) 434-8253.

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The Sun

Dr. Edwards named Chairman of Board at Glades Day School



Dr. Earle E. "Chip" Edwards Glades Day School announces the election of Dr. Earle E. "Chip" Edwards III as the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the school, replacing Thomas L. Altman, who is stepping down after four years in the position.

Dr. Edwards, whose roots are in the Glades, graduated from Cleveland High School in 1968. He attended Florida State University before entering the Medical College of Virginia, where he obtained degrees in dental and orthodontics.

A strong supporter of Glades Day School for many years, Dr. Edwards has an orthodontic practice with offices in LaBelle, Clewiston and Belle Glade. Elected to the Board of Trustees in 1999, he and his wife Mary have four sons who attend GDS: Eric, (11th), Nathan (8th), Jeffrey (6th) and Samuel (3rd), all of whom

participate in numerous school activities."

"Chip (Edwards) is a tremendous asset to our school," said Mr. Altman. "He is admired and loved by those who know him and he is going to be a fabulous Chairman for our Board of Trustees."

Mr. Altman added that he was

"extremely proud" to be associated with the faculty, staff and administration of Glades Day School during his four years as Chairman, and that if "they will continue to be as supportive of Chip Edwards as they have been of me, the future of this school will be very, very bright."

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Senior services honor volunteers

Palm Beach County Division of Senior Services honored volunteers serving seniors throughout Palm Beach County at a luncheon and educational seminar on Monday, April 24 at the Drawbridge Cafe in Belle Glade.

The Division of Senior Services receives a grant from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs through the Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast to provide R.E.L.I.E.F. (Respire for Elders Living in Everyday Families). Volunteers provide companionship and supervision of homebound residents 60 years of age and older living with a 24-hour unpaid caregiver.

The volunteer services provide respite from full-time caregiving by allowing the caregiver some time and space for errands and self-care. Volunteers may receive reimbursement for mileage, meals and an hourly stipend for expenses.

Volunteers being recognized for service in the past twelve months include Editha Anderson, Annice Boyd, Janet L. Copen,



Pictured left to right are R.E.L.I.E.F. volunteers Editha Anderson, Dorothy Fitzpatrick, Cassandra Moreland, Keith Babb, supervisor and Annice Boyd, volunteer.

Dorothy Fitzpatrick, Betty Ann Gaines, Phoebe Genece, Ida M. Jackson, Vivian Lovett, Cassandra Moreland, Ron Rainone, Ethel L. Wilkerson, Karen Williams and Mary D. Wilson. Certificates of appreciation were presented to these volunteers by Keith Babb, Area Supervisor for the Division of Senior Services.

In addition, West County Senior Center volunteers were recognized for support

of daily activities, events and projects at the center. Certificates were presented to long-time volunteers Jack Barham, Mildred Barham, Kay Inskeep, Rudy Manisano, Margaret Peters, Exolier Phillips, Lou Sprinkle and in memory of Louise Walcott by Senior Center Manager, Effie McNair.

A special training presentation was led by Louis Max, LCSW.

The honored volunteers provided an estimated 15,720 hours to Belle Glade seniors, valued by the Independent Sector as equal to a donation of \$233,127 to the Division of Senior Services in western Palm Beach County.

Sims-Brooks to wed

Josephine Sims, the daughter of Amie and Solomon Frazier of South Bay, will marry Eddie Brooks, the son of Irene Brooks of Chicago on Friday May 5, 2000. The wedding will be held at 211 NW 11th Street, Belle Glade, at 6

p.m. with a reception following the wedding. The bride is employed at Wal-Mart. The groom is employed at U.S. Sugar Corporation. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

PBCSO recommended to receive accreditation

Palm Beach County Sheriff Robert W. Neumann issued a press release April 18 indicating that an assessment team for the Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission completed their inspection of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office April 12 and will recommend that the PBCSO receive accredited status.

The assessment team was composed of law enforcement practitioners from Florida Law Enforcement agencies and included team leaders, Jerry Bailey, Florida Department of the Lottery, Gary Schmidt, Osceola County Sheriff's Office and Scott Maxwell of the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Neumann said this will be the first time PBCSO has been accredited since 1993.

"One of my top priorities upon becoming sheriff in 1997 was to

make the PBCSO the most effective and efficient in Florida. After more than three years of redirecting and restructuring the agency, I requested that the commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation come to our agency and examine all aspects of our policies, procedures, management, operations and support services. In order to achieve accreditation we must be in compliance with approximately 260 standards set by the commission.

"At the close of the assessment, the team conducted an exit interview with the sheriff and his executive staff. The praise and recognition given to both individuals and operational units was extensive and sincere. The assessment team indicated that it will be their recommendation to the commission that the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office receive accredited status," Sheriff Neumann said.

Palms West Hospital opens Breast Center

Palms West Hospital is pleased to announce the opening of the Palms West Breast Center. The breast center is located on the Palms West Hospital Campus in Medical Office Building 3, Suite 104.

The breast center offers breast self exam training, screening and diagnostic mammography, ultrasound and stereotactic biopsy, ultrasound cyst aspirations, fine needle aspirations, as well as radiology and pathology support.

"The center was developed with women in mind offering a calm, comforting environment. The breast center is devoted exclusively to the prevention and early detection of breast cancer. The center is

equipped with the very latest in mammography, ultrasound and biopsy technology. Each mammogram conducted at Palms West Breast Center is read by two board-certified radiologists for more reliable and accurate diagnosis.

Breast cancer is one of the deadliest cancers affecting women, however the five year survival rate exceeds 97 percent if it is caught early. Palms West Hospital now offers a convenient and caring place for women to learn more about breast health.

For more information, or to speak to a member of the Palms West Breast Center team, please call 792-4892.



Volunteers Jack Barham and Mildred Barham flank West County Senior Center Manager Effie McNair.



Sharon Richardson, Operations Supervisor for Palm Beach County's Division of Senior Services presents a certificate to west area supervisor Keith Babb.

Obituaries



Anthony W. Wilhoit

Anthony W. Wilhoit, 21, formerly of Belle Glade, passed away Friday, April 28, 2000 at St. Mary's Hospital, West Palm Beach, after a courageous battle with cancer. Mr. Wilhoit was born Feb. 25, 1979 in Pahokee and had lived in Belle Glade for the first 15 years of his life. He is survived by his parents, Winford and Teresa James Wilhoit of West Palm Beach; a brother, Billy Wilhoit; a sister, Stacy Wilhoit; grandparents Billie Joe Rhodes of South Carolina, Ben James of West Palm Beach, Vedia Wilhoit of Kentucky and Billy Joe Wilhoit of Tennessee. He also left a number of aunts, uncles and other relatives and friends who will miss him dearly. Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 3 in the chapel of Kraeher-Mixon Funeral Home with Pastor Jimmy Sims officiating. Interment followed at Port Mayaca Cemetery. Kraeher-Mixon Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Edward Alan Upthegrove, 51, of LaBelle passed away April 30, 2000, at Brookfield, Mo. Mr. Upthegrove was born Aug. 12, 1948 in Pahokee to the late Osceola and Ella Louise "Forst" Upthegrove. He graduated from Pahokee High School in 1966 and received his AA degree from Palm Beach Junior College in 1968, bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida in 1970 and Master's Degree from Nova University in 1974. Mr. Upthegrove served as Superintendent for Hendry County Schools from 1992 to the present. He was a teacher of social studies from 1976-79, principal of Clewiston Middle School from 1979-83 and assistant superintendent of public instruction for Hendry County from 1983-92. He was a member of the Florida School Music Association, Florida Association of District School Superintendents and Chairman of Hendry-Glades School Readiness Coalition. He is survived by his wife Beverly Anne "Wilkinson" Upthegrove; a son, Edward Ryan Upthegrove; a daughter, Maggie Leone Upthegrove, all of LaBelle; his stepmother, Ruth Upthegrove of West Palm Beach; four sisters, Donna Kiesel of Sebring, Sandra, Kristi and Joy Upthegrove, all of West Palm Beach; two grandchildren, Clay and Cole Upthegrove of LaBelle; three nieces and seven nephews. Funeral services for Mr. Upthegrove were held Thursday, May 4 at the LaBelle High School Gym at 3 p.m. with Rev. Frank Deary, Jr., Rev. John Gill, III, Rev. Dwayne Brown and Rev. Tony Miller officiating. Burial followed in the Ft. Denard Cemetery. Akin-Davis Funeral Home, LaBelle, was in charge of arrangements.

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